ALL WALES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – SPECIAL ORAL HEALTH CARE
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ROLAND WILLIAMS JOB SHADOWING SCHEME 2027

The All Wales Special Interest Group invites DCP's in Wales who have an interest in Special Care Dentistry (SCD) to apply for the Roland Williams Job Shadowing Scheme for 2027.

This scheme is aimed at DCP's who would either like to further the knowledge in SCD that they already have, or for those who have limited experience of SCD, but would like to expand on their knowledge and understanding of SCD.

SCD is concerned with the improvement of the oral health of individuals and groups in society who have a physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, medical, emotional or social impairment or disability or a combination of these factors. The specialty focuses on adolescents and adults only and includes the important period of transition as the adolescent moves into adulthood.

Special Care Dentistry Modules

Successful applicants will have the option of choosing 2 modules, to cover areas of SCD they wish to gain more of an understanding of. Or for those who wish to acquire a more general overview of SCD, they could choose the 'SCD in the Community Dental Service' module.

Listed below are the SCD modules available and examples of what could be included in each module. Each module can be tailored to suit the experience and specific needs of the applicant.

Successful applicants will be allocated to Consultants, Specialists in SCD, Senior Community Dentists, Dental Therapists/Hygienists, Dental Nurses and Oral Health Educators/Improvement practitioners to meet their objectives.

• Learning disabilities and autism
- Autistic spectrum disorders
- Mild to profound learning disability
- Collaborative working including the role of Community Learning Disability Teams
- Working with carers
- Consent and the Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

- Role of IMCAs
- Positive behavioural management/clinical holding and fitness to hold

• Severe mental illness
- Depression, schizophrenia, personality disorders, bipolar affective disorders, anxiety disorders
- Providing dental care in secure and forensic units
- Community Mental Health Teams
- Risk assessment
- Mental Health Act
- Informed consent

• The vulnerable older person
- Ageing and its consequences on the provision of dental care and on the dentition
- Providing domiciliary dental care at home, nursing and residential homes
- The provision of palliative dental care
- Agencies for older people and their carers
- Intensive preventive regimes and programmes in Wales including Gwen am Byth and 1000 lives Mouthcare for Adults in Hospital

• Dentally anxious or phobic
- Behavioural management techniques including desensitisation, acupuncture, hypnosis, cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness
- Inhalation sedation
- Intravenous sedation
- Transmucosal sedation techniques
- SCD general anaesthesia

• Medically compromised
- Provision of dental care for patients with significant cardiac conditions, bleeding disorders and prescribed anticoagulation therapy, infectious diseases, respiratory disorders, immunosuppressed patients, significant autoimmune diseases, liver and renal disorders
- The management of patients at risk of adrenal insufficiency
- Pre-operative planning for patients pre-cardiac surgery, pre-antiresorptive drug therapy, pre-transplant and pre-oncology treatment
- Dental care for patients currently undergoing treatment for cancer
- Liaison with other health care professionals

• Physically compromised
- The provision of bariatric dental care, clinic, surgery and equipment requirements
- Adjustments required to provide safe dental care
- Hoisting and treating patients using a wheelchair platform
- Manual handling risk assessments
- Providing care for patients with limited opening
- Providing care for patients with movement disorders

• Socially compromised

- Provision of dental care for people who are homeless, asylum seekers and refugees, travelers, prisoners and people living in medium secure units, substance misuse

• Special Care Dentistry in the Community Dental Service
- For applicants who don't have specific learning objectives and want to develop an overview of Special Care Dentistry and the services provided for vulnerable adults in the Community Dental service
- Would include a combination of the modules listed above

Core aims of the scheme

Some central issues will be covered during the scheme.

• Types of clients and the health, social, cultural and environmental factors associated with various conditions.

• Where they reside within the community, how to identify them and the different ways in which the client group can be accessed.

• The agencies involved in their care i.e., carers, voluntary sector, health, social services.

• Health problems and effects on oral health plus specific barriers to oral health care.

• Oral health and dental care for the client group i.e., care pathways, oral health risk assessments, treatment planning, skill mix, sedation, GA.

• Consent, MCA, DOLs, IMCA, communication, clinical holding, risk assessment and risk management.

• Dental services, sites and oral health care programmes i.e., oral health promotion/prevention/education, domiciliary care, mobile dental units, mix and match approaches.

• Publications, national and local policies that influence their care i.e., DDA, National Service Frameworks, SIG, BSSCD and BSG guidelines etc.

Who can apply?

DCP's from across Wales are eligible to apply.

This is an all-Wales scheme to ensure that an extensive range of opportunities and experiences are available to participants. Participants will be allocated to a placement which best suits their chosen module. Whilst every effort is made to minimise travel, participants may need to travel to any of the Welsh Health Boards (with an overnight stay if this involves a significant distance). This can be further discussed on successful appointment.

Support from applicant's Health Boards

Applicants ***must*** have the full backing and support from their employer and have approval for at least two study days. There is no charge for attending the shadowing days, however all accompanying expenses (e.g., travel, accommodation and subsistence) will need to be supported and covered by either the applicant or their employer.

Organisation

Successful applicants will be given the contact details of the specialty leader they have been allocated to and advised to contact them to make arrangements. A date will be agreed for the job shadowing to take place and confirmed in writing by the specialty leader. If another applicant has chosen the same topic, then all three will agree a date. The specialty leader will help the applicant by supplying accommodation and travel information.

Case Studies and Evaluation of the scheme

To validate the scheme, each applicant has the opportunity to submit two case studies, one for each module covered in the scheme, a template for these case studies will be provided. Applicants are also required to submit an evaluation of the scheme once they have completed their two days of job shadowing. A certificate of completion of the Roland Williams Job Shadowing Scheme will be issued once satisfactory case studies and an evaluation form have been submitted. Certificates will be presented at the SIG Study Day 2027.

Any queries please email – laura.andrews3@wales.nhs.uk

Closing date for applications: 11th December 2026